

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Clippings

James W. Silver Collection

---

6-23-1966

## Young Dems Have Higher Hopes For Expansion, Representation

Paul Pittman

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws\\_clip](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_clip)

---

### Recommended Citation

Pittman, Paul, "Young Dems Have Higher Hopes For Expansion, Representation" (1966). *Clippings*. 270.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws\\_clip/270](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_clip/270)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the James W. Silver Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clippings by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).

# Young Dems Have Higher Hopes For Expansion, Representation

Paul Pittman

When Bill Silver returned from a ten - day foray into the nation's capital recently, he had some encouraging news to report to his fellow Young Democrats here in Mississippi.

What Silver, executive secretary of the state political organization, had done in Washington was to finally get the attention of a handful of liberals in the national party. They agreed to advance a small amount of money to finance YD operations in the state this summer.

It was a minor breakthrough for the struggling political group which has until now been without funds. The hope is that the financial help from Washington will give them a running start toward some kind of recognition at the national Democratic convention in 1968.

\* \* \*

THIS IS the immediate goal of the Young Democrats in Mississippi. Their struggle for recognition by the national organization of Young Democrats was

resolved last fall after a heated controversy with an FDP — backed group also vying for official recognition as the chartered organization of Young Democrats in the state.

What the Young Democrats now hope to do is enlist enough members to have significant influence in Democratic affairs in the state in the 1968 presidential election year.

This is no small order. Self consciously bi - racial and largely college - oriented, the organization has been something of a paper tiger up to now.

With a budget of some \$6,000 pledged for this summer and an office in the Milner Building in Jackson, the YD's hope to step out with two fieldmen, one white and one Negro, on the road recruiting members for non - college Young Democratic clubs over the state.

The money is coming from the national Young Democratic organization, the Democratic Congressional Study Group and from

private sources, including some here in Mississippi.

Tentatively planned is a cocktail party in Washington July 12, which young Silver hopes will raise \$3,000. It is being sponsored by three liberal Democratic congressmen, Grider of Tennessee, Brademas of Indiana, and Weltner of Georgia. Senator Robert Kennedy is also expected to allow his name to be used in connection with the fund-raising affair.

\* \* \*

THE tentative little beachhead the YD's have established with national Democratic liberals may or may not survive. Their blessing will hinge primarily on what successes the YD's register in the state. And, it ought to be noted that Silver made absolutely no headway with national Democrats who are beholden in any way to the biggest Democrat of them all, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Various young democrats here in the state mutter darkly of a Johnson - Eastland axis when the president's name is mentioned. They say that the president has blocked assistance to the struggling YD's because he does not want to raise the ire of Senator Jim Eastland, the chairman of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee.

In this connection, it is also notable that LBJ's man in Mississippi, Doug Wynn of Greenville, has never extended the warm hand of fellowship to the Young Democratic group.

\* \* \*

THE YOUNG Democrats got one break when the Mississippi Democratic Conference went on the rocks earlier this year. At that time, organized labor and NAACP leaders shifted their support to the Young Democrats as the only organization having an official link with the national party.

Now, for the first time, the state Democratic Executive Committee is discussing the need to attract the newly registered Negro vote to the Democratic banner. Moreover, that group is under a mandate to send a racially integrated delegation to the national convention in 1968. It would be ironic if the bi - racial Young Democrats helped pull the old guard Democrat's chestnuts out of the fire on the racial problem.

But this could easily happen if the Young Democrats have any success with their recruiting and organizational work this summer.

The Delta Democrat Times

Greenville, Miss., Thursday, June 23, 1966